

Information Sheet Advanced Practice Certification

Please read this information sheet before completing the application.

On January 1, 2003, legislation (Senate Bill 1402) became law that requires occupational therapists offering services in hand therapy, physical agent modalities, and/or swallowing assessment, evaluation and intervention to demonstrate, through post professional education and training, that they are competent to do so. This legislation becomes operative on **January 1, 2004**.

Definitions for hand therapy and physical agent modalities are contained in the Occupational Therapy Practice Act (OTPA) section 2570.2(l) and (m) and subject matter requirements are identified in section 2570.3(e) and (f). Subject matter requirements for swallowing assessment, evaluation and intervention are specified in proposed Title 16, California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 4153. Both the OTPA and proposed CCR sections are available on the Board's web site under the Laws and Regulations link.

A panel of experts will review your application for compliance with the OTPA and applicable regulations, and certification will begin January 1, 2004. You will be notified as quickly as possible as to the status of your application. There is no application or certification fee. Once your application has been approved, you will receive a new pocket license that reflects the area(s) of advanced practice in which you have been certified.

Please Note: If you have been certified by the Hand Therapy Certification Commission (HTCC) before December 31, 2003, you automatically qualify for advanced practice certification in hand therapy and physical agent modalities. However, you must submit an application to the Board with a copy of your HTCC certificate.

Substantially Equivalent Education and Training

The Board recognizes that OTs have been providing advanced practice services prior to enactment of the licensing laws and regulations in California. Provisions have been included in proposed CCR section 4155(c) that allow OTs to demonstrate competency in advanced practice areas through substantially equivalent education and training. This means that you do not necessarily have to have completed the exact number of hours of education and training that will be required of practitioners under the new law. However, the Board suggests that you use the regulations as a *guideline* in preparing your portfolio.

An application based on substantially equivalent education and training must be postmarked no later than six (6) months following the effective date of the regulations. The Board anticipates that the regulations will take effect by June 30, 2004.

Section I: Personal Data

Complete all boxes within this section. Please provide your name as it is shown on your OT license.

Section II: Affidavit

Sign and date the application and send it to:

California Board of Occupational Therapy
444 North 3rd Street, Suite 410
Sacramento, CA 95814

Your application is signed under penalty of perjury that all information contained therein is true and correct.

Sections III through V: Post-Professional Education and Training

The application lists the subject matter required by the OTPA for each advanced practice area. To demonstrate that you have met the post professional educational requirements, you may include transcripts, course outlines or syllabi, certificates of completion of continuing education, evidence that you have taught courses in the advanced practice area, a list of books or articles you read summarizing the topics covered, etc. If you have taken coursework but no longer have proof of such, you may include a statement identifying the course, topics covered, the instructor's name and credentials, the approximate date of completion, and a summary of the content. For each course taken, taught, book read, etc., you must also include a "statement of learning" that describes what you learned, how the knowledge applied to your practice, how it changed or validated your practice, and how you became more competent through its completion.

To demonstrate proof of training, you may provide the name and location of the facility in which you practiced, an estimate of the number of hours and type of training or experience you completed, and have it verified by the supervisor, or, if you cannot locate the supervisor, the employer. (Training/experience can include many activities including, but not limited to, caregiver training, team collaboration, patient evaluations, assessments, treatments, chart review, etc.) If you cannot locate either the supervisor or the employer, make note of that on the application. You may be contacted by the Board for further information.

For Hand Therapy:

- Completion of 45 contact hours in the subjects identified in the hand therapy section of the application.
- Completion of 480 hours of supervised on the job training, clinical internship or affiliation, which may be paid or voluntary, pertaining to hand therapy.

An occupational therapist providing hand therapy services using physical agent modalities must also comply with the requirements pertaining to physical agent modalities. A maximum of 8 contact hours and 60 hours of supervised on the job training, clinical internship or affiliation, paid or voluntary, completed for physical agent modalities will be credited toward the requirements for hand therapy certification.

For Physical Agent Modalities:

- Completion of 30 contact hours in the subjects identified in the physical agent modality section of the application form.
- Completion of 240 hours of supervised on the job training, clinical internship or affiliation, which may be paid or voluntary, pertaining to physical agent modalities.

For Swallowing Assessment, Evaluation or Intervention - Refer to proposed CCR section 4153:

- Completion of 45 contact hours in the subjects identified in the swallowing assessment, evaluation section of the application form.
- Completion of 240 hours of supervised on the job training, clinical internship or affiliation, which may be paid or voluntary, pertaining to swallowing assessment, evaluation or intervention.

Sections VI through VIII are for Board use only.

If you have questions, please contact Janet Yagi at (916) 322-3278, Jeff Hanson at (916) 324-4353 or you may email the Board at cbot@dca.ca.gov.